

The Honorable Jamal N. Whitehead

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

PETER BILLING, M.D.; and TRANSFORM  
WEIGHT LOSS LLC,

Petitioner,

v.

PREMERA BLUE CROSS,

Respondent.

CASE NO. 2:25-cv-00442-JNW

**MODEL STIPULATED PROTECTIVE  
ORDER**

**Note on Motion Calendar:  
March 24, 2025**

**STIPULATION**

1. **PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

“Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged by parties and nonparties in the above-captioned litigation:

- “Confidential Health Information,” including any information relating to any individual receiving healthcare discovered or exchanged in this matter that identifies an individual in any matter and/or relates to the past, present, or future care, services, or supplies relating to the physical or mental health or condition of such individual, the provision of healthcare to such individual, or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of healthcare to such individual.
  - The term “Confidential Health Information” specifically includes Protected Health Information (“PHI”), as that term is defined by the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 45 C.F.R. parts 160 and 164, promulgated pursuant to HIPAA. See 45 C.F.R. § 160.103 (defining “individually identifiable health information” and “protected health information”).
  - “Confidential Health Information” also includes, but is not limited to, medical bills, claims forms, charge sheets, medical records, medical charts, test results, notes, dictation, invoices, itemized billing statements, remittance advice forms, explanations of benefits, checks, notices, and requests, as well as all notes, summaries, compilations, extracts, abstracts, or oral communications that contain, are based on, or are derived from, Confidential Health Information.
  - “Confidential Health Information” includes the following identifiers of the individual or subscriber or of the relatives, employers, or household members of the individual or subscriber:
    - Names;

- 1           ▪ All geographic subdivisions smaller than a State, including street
- 2           address, city, county, precinct, zip code, and their equivalent area codes,
- 3           except for the initial three digits of a zip code if, according to the current
- 4           publicly available data from the Bureau of the Census, (i) the geographic
- 5           unit formed by combining all zip codes with the same three initial digits
- 6           contains more than 20,000 people, and (ii) the initial three digits of a zip
- 7           code for all such geographic units containing 20,000 or fewer people is
- 8           changed to 000;
- 9           ▪ All elements of dates (except year) for dates directly related to an
- 10          individual, including birth date, admission dates, discharge dates and
- 11          date of death, and all ages over 89, and all elements of dates (including
- 12          year) indicative of such age, except that such ages and elements may be
- 13          aggregated into a single category of age 90 or older;
- 14          ▪ Telephone numbers;
- 15          ▪ Fax numbers;
- 16          ▪ Electronic mail addresses;
- 17          ▪ Social security numbers;
- 18          ▪ Medical record numbers;
- 19          ▪ Health plan beneficiary numbers;
- 20          ▪ Account numbers;
- 21          ▪ Certificate/license numbers;
- 22          ▪ Vehicle identifiers and serial numbers, including license plate numbers;
- 23          ▪ Device identifiers and serial numbers;
- 24          ▪ Web universal resource locators (“URLs”);
- 25          ▪ Internet protocol (“IP”) address numbers;
- 26

- Biometric identifiers, including finger and voice prints;
  - Full face photographic images and any comparable images, and;
  - Any other unique identifying number, characteristic, or code except as permitted for a code utilized to re-identify de-identified data that complies with 45 C.F.R. § 164.514(c).
- Documents containing personal, financial, medical, proprietary or other information subject to a right of privacy;
  - Any information that the producing party is obligated by contract or state or federal law to keep confidential;
  - Any information the producing party's business competitors could use to obtain a business, strategic, or legal advantage over the producing party; and
  - Any other documents or information that should otherwise be subject to confidential treatment pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

### 3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

### 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material

1 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures  
2 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

3 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered  
4 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any  
5 confidential material only to:

6 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees  
7 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

8 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the  
9 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties  
10 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so  
11 designated;

12 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this  
13 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

14 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

15 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of  
16 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service  
17 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately  
18 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

19 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is  
20 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”  
21 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of  
22 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must  
23 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted  
24 under this agreement;

25 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a  
26

1 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

2 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or  
 3 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,  
 4 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will  
 5 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion  
 6 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the  
 7 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,  
 8 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing  
 9 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and  
 10 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material  
 11 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the  
 12 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.  
 13 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with  
 14 the strong presumption of public access to the Court's files.

## 15 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

16 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party  
 17 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take  
 18 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate  
 19 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,  
 20 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the  
 21 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
 22 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are  
 24 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to  
 25 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses  
 26

and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(b) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

(a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

1           5.3    Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to  
 2 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's  
 3 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a  
 4 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated  
 5 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6    6.       CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

7           6.1    Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of  
 8 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality  
 9 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic  
 10 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to  
 11 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the  
 12 original designation is disclosed.

13          6.2    Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute  
 14 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential  
 15 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration  
 16 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other  
 17 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list  
 18 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-  
 19 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

20          6.3    Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court  
 21 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local  
 22 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of  
 23 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those  
 24 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on  
 25 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain  
 26



1 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

2 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER  
 3 LITIGATION

4 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels  
 5 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party  
 6 must:

7 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the  
 8 subpoena or court order;

9 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to  
 10 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is  
 11 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

12 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by  
 13 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

14 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

15 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential  
 16 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving  
 17 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,  
 18 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the  
 19 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,  
 20 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be  
 21 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

22 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED  
 23 MATERIAL

24 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently  
 25 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the

receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: March 24, 2025

SIRIANNI YOUTZ  
SPOONEMORE HAMBURGER PLLC

/s/ Eleanor Hamburger

Daniel S. Gross (WSBA #23992)

[dgross@sylaw.com](mailto:dgross@sylaw.com)

Eleanor Hamburger (WSBA #26478)

[ehamburger@sylaw.com](mailto:ehamburger@sylaw.com)

3101 Western Avenue, Suite 350

Seattle, WA 98121

Tel. (206) 223-0303; Fax (206) 223-0303

*Attorneys for Petitioners*

1 DATED: March 24, 2025

CORR|DOWNS PLLC

2 /s/ Joseph P. Corr (per email authorization)

3 Joseph P. Corr, WSBA No. 36584

4 [jcorr@corrdowns.com](mailto:jcorr@corrdowns.com)

100 W Harrison Street, Suite N440

Seattle, WA 98119

Telephone: 206.962.5040

6 DATED: March 24, 2025

ROBINS KAPLAN LLP

7 /s/ Erica D. Rosenbaum (per email authorization)

8 Jeffrey S. Gleason (Admitted pro hac vice)

9 [JGleason@robinskaplan.com](mailto:JGleason@robinskaplan.com)

Jared J. Burns (Admitted pro hac vice)

10 [JBurns@robinskaplan.com](mailto:JBurns@robinskaplan.com)

Erica D. Rosenbaum (Admitted pro hac vice)

11 [ERosenbaum@robinskaplan.com](mailto:ERosenbaum@robinskaplan.com)

800 LaSalle Avenue, Suite 2800

12 Minneapolis, MN 55402

13 Telephone: (612) 349-8500

*Attorneys for Premera Blue Cross*

**ORDER**

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents, electronically stored information (ESI) or information, whether inadvertent or otherwise, in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law. This Order shall be interpreted to provide the maximum protection allowed by Fed. R. Evid. 502(d). The provisions of Fed. R. Evid. 502(b) do not apply. Nothing contained herein is intended to or shall serve to limit a party's right to conduct a review of documents, ESI or information (including metadata) for relevance, responsiveness and/or segregation of privileged and/or protected information before production. Information produced in discovery that is protected as privileged or work product shall be immediately returned to the producing party.

DATED: March 25, 2025.



Jamal N. Whitehead  
United States District Judge

1 Presented by:

2 SIRIANNI YOUTZ  
3 SPOONEMORE HAMBURGER PLLC

4 /s/ Eleanor Hamburger

Daniel S. Gross (WSBA #23992)

5 [dgross@sylaw.com](mailto:dgross@sylaw.com)

Eleanor Hamburger (WSBA #26478)

6 [ehamburger@sylaw.com](mailto:ehamburger@sylaw.com)

3101 Western Avenue, Suite 350

7 Seattle, WA 98121

Tel. (206) 223-0303; Fax (206) 223-0303

8 *Attorneys for Petitioners*

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
\_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of  
perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was  
issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of Washington on [date] in the  
case of *Billing et al v. Premera Blue Cross*, Case No. 2:25-cv-00442-JNW. I agree to comply with  
and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and  
acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature  
of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item  
that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance  
with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the  
Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective  
Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_